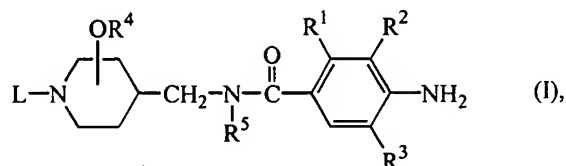


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Previously presented) A compound of formula (I)



a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> taken together form a bivalent radical of formula

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-1),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-2),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-3),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-4),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O- (a-5),

-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- (a-6),

wherein in said bivalent radicals one or two hydrogen atoms may be substituted with C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl,

R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or halo;

R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-6alkyl;

L is C<sub>3</sub>-6cycloalkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-6cycloalkanone, or C<sub>2</sub>-6alkenyl,

or L is a radical of formula

- Alk-R<sup>6</sup> (b-1),
- Alk-X-R<sup>7</sup> (b-2),
- Alk-Y-C(=O)-R<sup>9</sup> (b-3), or
- Alk-Y-C(=O)-NR<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup> (b-4),

wherein each Alk is C<sub>1-12</sub>alkanediyl; and

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonylamino, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl,

C<sub>5-6</sub>cycloalkanone, or Het<sup>1</sup>;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, or Het<sup>2</sup>;

X is O, S, SO<sub>2</sub> or NR<sup>8</sup>; said R<sup>8</sup> being hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>9</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy or hydroxy;

Y is NR<sup>10</sup> or a direct bond; said R<sup>10</sup> being hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> each independently are hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, or

R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> combined with the nitrogen atom bearing R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may form a pyrrolidinyll or piperidinyll ring both being optionally substituted with

C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, amino or mono or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, or said R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup>

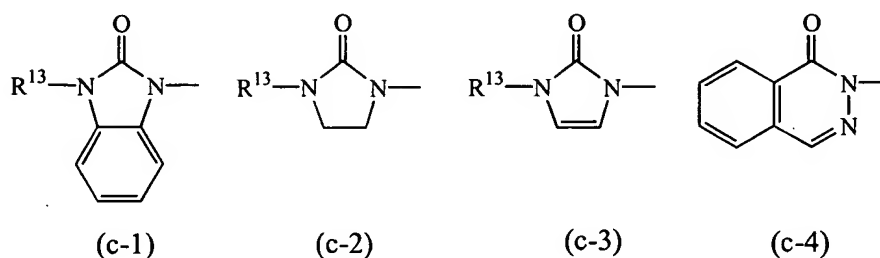
combined with the nitrogen bearing R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> may form a piperazinyll or

4-morpholinyll radical both being optionally substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and

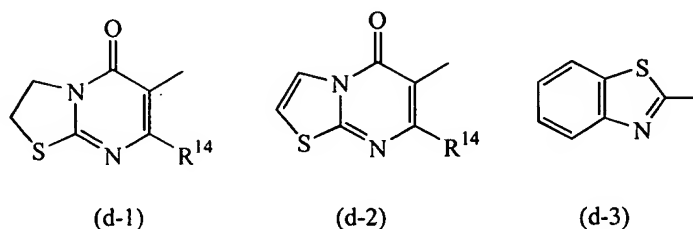
Het<sup>1</sup> and Het<sup>2</sup> each independently are selected from furan; furan substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo; tetrahydrofuran; a tetrahydrofuran substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; a dioxolane; a dioxolane substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, a dioxane; a dioxane substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; tetrahydropyran; a tetrahydropyran substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; pyrrolidinyll; pyrrolidinyll substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; pyridinyll; pyridinyll substituted with one or two substituents each

independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; pyrimidinyl; pyrimidinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, amino and mono and di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino; pyridazinyl; pyridazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or halo; pyrazinyl; pyrazinyl substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, amino, mono- and di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl;

Het<sup>1</sup> can also be a radical of formula



Het<sup>1</sup> and Het<sup>2</sup> each independently can also be selected from the radicals of formula



R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> each independently are hydrogen or C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; and wherein the -OR<sup>4</sup> radical is situated at any position of the central piperidine moiety other than the 4 position.

- Claim 2.      **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -OR<sup>4</sup> radical is situated at the 3-position of the central piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.
- Claim 3.      **(Cancelled)**
- Claim 4.      **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-1), wherein each Alk is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediyl, and R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylsulfonylamino, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl or Het<sup>1</sup>, wherein Het<sup>1</sup> is tetrahydrofuran; dioxolane; dioxolane substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; tetrahydropyran; pyridazinyl substituted with one or more substituents selected from hydroxy, halo and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or a radical of formula (c-1), (c-3) or (c-4) wherein R<sup>13</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-2), wherein Alk is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediyl, X is O, and R<sup>7</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl or hydroxyc<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-2), wherein Alk is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkanediyl, R<sup>7</sup> is Het<sup>2</sup> wherein Het<sup>2</sup> is pyrazinyl substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and X is NR<sup>8</sup> wherein R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or L is a radical of formula (b-3) wherein Y is a direct bond, and R<sup>9</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, hydroxy or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy; or L is a radical of formula (b-4) wherein Y is a direct bond, and R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> are C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> combined with the nitrogen atom bearing R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> form pyrrolidinyl.
- Claim 5.      **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is butyl; propyl substituted with methoxy, methylcarbonyl or 2-methyl-1,3-dioxolane; ethyl substituted with 4-methyl-2-pyridazinone or tetrahydropyranyl; or methyl substituted with tetrahydrofuranyl or tetrahydropyranyl.
- Claim 6.      **(Previously presented)** A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound is

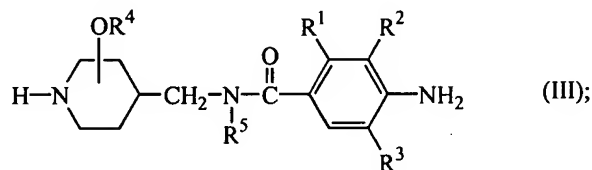
(trans)-(-)-4-amino-5-chloro-2,3-dihydro-*N*-[[3-hydroxy-1-(3-methoxypropyl)-4-piperidiny]methyl]-2,2-dimethyl-7-benzofurancarboxamide; a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt or an *N*-oxide form thereof.

Claim 7. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to ~~any of~~ claim 1.

Claim 8. **(Cancelled)**

Claim 9. **(Cancelled)**

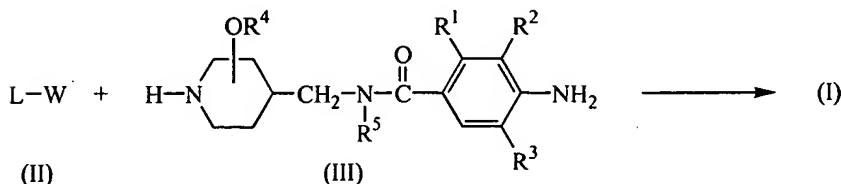
Claim 10. **(Currently amended)** A compound of formula (III)



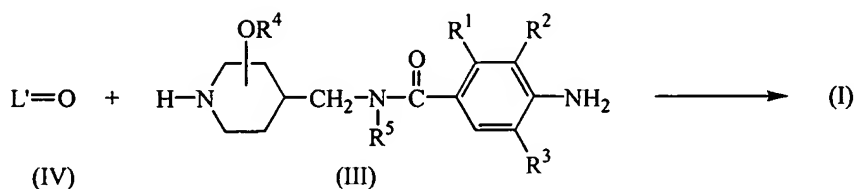
a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are as defined in claim 1 for compounds of formula (I) and wherein the  $-OR^4$  radical is situated at any position of the central piperidine moiety other than the 4 position.

Claim 11. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein

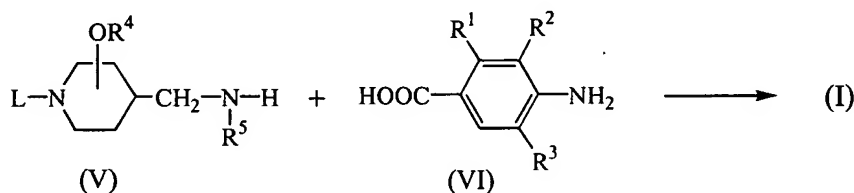
- a) an intermediate of formula (II) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (III) in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base,



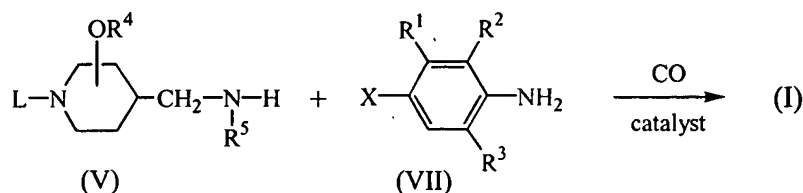
- b) an appropriate ketone or aldehyde intermediate of formula  $L'=O$  (IV), said  $L'=O$  being a compound of formula  $L-H$ , wherein two geminal hydrogen atoms in the  $C_{1-12}$ alkanediyl moiety are replaced by  $=O$ , is reacted with an intermediate of formula (III);



- c) an intermediate of formula (V) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (VI) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



- d) an intermediate of formula (VII), wherein X is bromo or iodo, is carbonylated in the presence of an intermediate of formula (V) in a reaction-inert solvent in the presence of a suitable catalyst and a tertiary amine, and at a temperature ranging between room temperature and the reflux temperature of the reaction mixture;



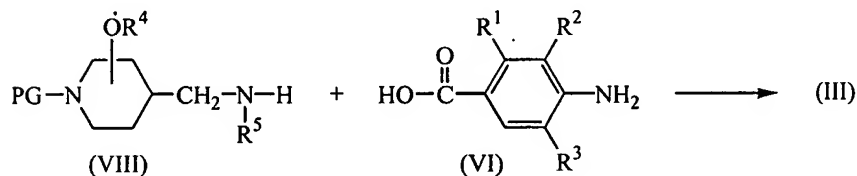
wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals  $L$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are as defined in claim 1 and wherein the  $-\text{OR}^4$  radical is situated at any

position of the central piperidine moiety other than the 4 position, and W is an appropriate leaving group;

- e) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

Claim 12. **(Currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound of formula (III) wherein

- a) an intermediate of formula (VIII), wherein PG is an appropriate protective group, is reacted with an acid of formula (VI), or an appropriate reactive functional derivative thereof, in a reaction-inert solvent and subsequent deprotection of the protecting group PG yielding compounds of formula (III);



wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals L, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined in claim 1 and wherein the -OR<sup>4</sup> radical is situated at any position of the central piperidine moiety other than the 4 position, and W is an appropriate leaving group;

- b) or, compounds of formula (III) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (III) is converted into an acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (III) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

Claim 13. **(Previously presented)**: A method of treating conditions involving a decreased gastro-intestinal motility comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.